

[17 August, 2000]

**RAJYA SABHA**

Delhi and submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Branch on 22nd June, 1999 through the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (Monitoring Cell).

(c) Government has accorded top priority for the provision of drinking water supply facilities to all rural habitations. As per the action plans prepared by the State Governments, in consonance with this objective, all the rural habitations in the country will be provided with drinking water supply facilities in five years, subject to availability of funds.

(d) The total Central plan outlay for Rural Water Supply Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 8150.00 crores.

**Trainee pilots killed in Accidents**

\*330. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trainee pilots killed in accidents during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aircrafts used for training purpose are old and Government have considered to acquire new aircrafts for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the last three years, since 1997-98 till 9th August, 2000, four trainee pilots have died in accidents.

(b) and (c) The aircrafts used for initial training in Indian Air Force are operating well within the total technical life. The Mig-21 aircrafts presently being used for stage-III training of fighter pilots has been considered sub-optimal for training purposes. Therefore, it is proposed to induct Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT) in the Air Force. It is also proposed to induct Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) as a replacement of Kiran aircraft.

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<sup>t</sup>Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.